



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

gerentia. Inflorescentia racemoso-paniculata, foliosissima, capitulis brevipedicellatis in ramulos breves secundarios ex axillis foliorum exortos confertis. Discus capituli 1.2 cm. altus latusque. Involucris trium vel quatuor squamae lineares acutae, marginibus ciliatis, apicibus viridibus ornatae. Flores radiati pallide roseo-purpurei. Pappus albus est.

Perennial with a horizontal rootstock. Stem stout, red, 5-6 mm. high, with the internodes between the branches 1.5-3 cm. high. Primary branches very variable in length, f. i. 16 cm., 5 cm., 15 cm. 6 cm., a. s. f. successively. All the parts of the plant are remarkably crowded. Leaves thick and firm, acuminate, sessile, short and broad, lanceolate, on the stem 6-8 cm. long, 1.5-2 cm. wide, on the branches 2-4 cm. long, 0.7-1 cm. wide, on both stem and branches prominently dentate, not abruptly reduced from below up, with a profusion of leaflets in the axils. Inflorescence racemosely paniculate, very leafy, with short-peduncled heads on secondary branches crowded in the leaf-axils. Disk of the head 1.2 cm. high and wide. Involucre 3 or 4 rows of linear, acute, wide, on the branches 2-4 cm. long, 0.7-1 cm. wide, on both stem 1.2 cm. high and wide. Involucre 3 or 4 rows of linear, acute, ciliate-margined, green-tipped bracts. Rays pale rose-purplish. Pappus white.

Collected by the writer on August 22, 1911 in the outskirts of the Turtle Mountains, near St. John, Rolette County.

1082. *Aster salicifolius* Lam. Encycl. I: 306. (1783).

Fargo (Cl. Waldron).

1083. *Aster caeruleus* DC. Prodr. 235. (1836).

Leeds.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE CHICAGO AREA.

BY C. W. G. EHRIG.

By Chicago Area is meant the territory within a fifty mile radius from the center of that metropolis, thus including a great variety of habitats, among them some of the most interesting localities from a zoological and botanical standpoint in the country, such as the dune region at the south end of Lake Michigan

in Indiana; the great swamp and slough region along the "Sag," south of the city; the prairies with their moraine woods and swamps west; as well as the Desplaines and parts of the Fox Rivers; the great Skokie Marsh and the lake shore with its pine barrens north of Chicago. Probably in no spot of similar area can more species of birds be seen and studied under such favorable conditions as in Jackson and Lincoln Parks, where not only the land birds, among them some rare migrants, but the water-birds as well, annually pass in review before the beholder, and it may be added that Woodcock, Prairie Chicken, wild Mongolian Pheasants, etc. may yet be seen within the city limits. These are just a few random notes and observations, and do not pretend to cover the whole region, but are from a few localities within it.

The year 1916 opened in an unusual, if not startling manner, there being peals of thunder heard on January 1st. Flocks of Canada Geese (*Branta Canadensis*) may in January be seen or heard passing to and fro overhead. During the day they stay near the edge of the ice, out in the lake, and toward evening or at night they resort to the cornfields in the prairie part, west of the city, to return to their icy station in the early morning. When there are east winds with their frequent accompaniment of rain and sleet, numerous Herring and Ring-billed Gulls wing their way over the western suburbs, into the prairie part, which then assumes a more or less lake-like aspect in places. Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocorys a. praticola*) roam over the weedy fields in small compact flocks, but on January 26th one of a pair was heard singing. The former are no doubt visitants from farther north, while the latter are locally remaining permanent residents of the species. On February 14th I saw two males, at least I took them for such, fighting over a female, standing nearby in an apparently uninterested manner. So early does this species start its mating activities. Nests are occasionally found the first week in March, often surrounded by snow. On February 22nd, Washington's birthday, temperature 50°, I saw along the Desplaines River the first Bluebirds, two, also three Song Sparrows, a Killdeer and about ten Mongolian or Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus torquatus*). The presence of the first three species shows again the influence on migration of a mild wave of weather. Normally these three species are seen at River Forest, where the writer lives, between the 10th and 15th of March, but that week of unusually mild

weather in February brought some so much earlier. A surprising condition may be mentioned. At La Grange, just five to six miles south of River Forest, not only winter residents such as Juncos Tree Sparrows, Nuthatches, Creepers, etc. are found in much greater abundance throughout winter than here, but species like the Song Sparrow, even the Carolina Wren and Cardinal, with an odd Robin, Meadowlark and Red-winged Blackbird are seen every winter. Why the Carolina Wren should never be seen here, let alone in winter, and the Cardinal rarely, and why the others should find conditions for winter residence so much more congenial these five miles farther south than here, would be hard to say. At any rate, it emphasizes the fact that we are located in the Transition Life Zone, where northerly and southerly species meet and overlap.

The sand dune region is always interesting, ornithologically even in winter. Several pairs of Great Horned Owls and several Ruffed Grouse may be seen any day in winter in a half day's walk, and the rare northern visitors such as the Crossbills, Evening Grosbeak, Redpolls and Snow Buntings have been seen last winter and also during the present. At the same time such southerly species as the Tufted Tit, Carolina Wren and the Cardinal may be seen. Some winters, as in the present, Red-headed Woodpeckers and a Flicker or two also stay here. Later, end of February and early in March, the Marsh Hawk puts in an appearance. The many long marshes, surrounded by wet swales are ideal conditions for him and consequently the number of these species seen here, is surprising. Later in the year the Short-billed Marsh Wren finds these same areas so much to its liking that at least one such swale near Mineral Springs may be called, a Marsh Wrens' paradise. Its long-billed relative is abundant nearby, where the cat-tail grows in water. The Marsh Hawk was seen mating on April 1st; nests with five and four eggs were found May 20th and 30th respectively.

To turn to the prairie part of the area under discussion, we find the fields about Addison, 20 miles northwest of Chicago, a veritable paradise for Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*). The writer knows of no place where they are so plentiful as here. The higher, wind-swept fields here, seems to be their ideal habitat from fall to the time of their return to their Hudsonian habitat, during the first days of May. In company with a friend I revisited

these fields on April 8th. The temperature was 33-35°; the wind blew a gale. It was extremely unpleasant to be out, to see and make headway. Yet on those bleak, bare fields thousands of Longspurs were found, evidently in high spirits, twittering and tinkling, chasing each other and playing as though these were days to their liking. And no doubt they were; similar weather is perhaps the rule or at least common in their northern tundras. Several that we collected were far advanced in their nuptial plumage, and by the 5th of May, when the last leave for the north, it is practically perfect. The first warblers I saw, were several Myrtle Warblers on April 11th and on the 16th the Palm Warbler arrived. On the 24th at the dunes, Henslows' Sparrow was common uttering his dry *tsray tsray*, and Fox and White-throated Sparrows were plentiful among many others. At this occasion I saw also the Varying Hare (*Lepus americanus virginianus*), showing that these tamarack swamps here are islands of purely Canadian fauna in the transition zone. The last Evening Grosbeak was seen May 4th in Jackson Park, after the Whippoorwill, Baltimore Oriole, Bobolink and many others had arrived from the south. A real rarity was the finding of the Mockingbird on May 18th; Woodruff in his "Birds of the Chicago Area" mentions about six occurrences.

Every observer of birds knows that no two migrations are quite alike, a fact that greatly adds to the interest in the study of bird migration. But also the nesting season usually holds some surprises. Such a feature in last spring's nesting was the low placing of nests of certain species here at River Forest, not found to the same degree in other years. While there are many trees about, I found most nests of Robins in bushes two and three feet up, also several Mourning Doves nests on the ground, in fact all except one were so placed. My theory is, that disagreeable experiences in previous years in this vicinity, caused by the pilfering of nests by Crows and Blue Jays, were perhaps the reason for this low placing.

The lake shore in the dune region is always apt to yield surprises in the late summer and early autumn. August 30th presented beside many Black Terns, some of them yet entirely black, Forsters Terns, Gulls, many Sanderlings, Willets, Turnstows, and Semipalmated Sandpipers also such rarities as two Black-bellied Plovers, still in their breeding plumage, a Caspian Tern and a Buffbreasted Sandpiper. Later in the season Mr. H. L. Stoddard of the Field

Museum took a fine specimen of the Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli*), which seems to be the first clear record for the Great Lakes. He also took a Blue Goose there and a year or two ago a Parasitic Jaeger.

Somewhat later records than usual are the seeing of Chimney Swifts and Nighthawks on Sept. 21st, a Hummingbird Oct. 6th, and a Black-crowned Nightheron Nov. 19th. One of the periodical incursions of great numbers of the fine Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) from its Canadian home, took place in the fall. A Chicago taxidermist took in over fifty specimens for mounting. It must have been a rather general movement, as these came from all parts of Illinois as well as Wisconsin and Michigan.

Not many birds are so obliging as two long-eared Owls, probably a pair, that took up their stand in a Norway spruce near the writer's home. For four weeks one could go there at any time during the day and find them in the same tree, in fact on the same branches of it, ready for an interview. To judge from the number of pellets, etc. below and in the tree, they must have been there for several weeks before they were discovered. On Nov. 15th an Italian captured a Saw-whet Owl alive in a spruce bush nearby and promptly wrung its head off, because its calling disturbed his sleep, he said. The tragedy, that we so often meet with in the lives of the wild!

CRITICAL NOTES ON NEW AND OLD GENERA OF PLANTS.—X.

BY J. A. NIEUWLAND.

THAMNIUM

Because there was an older *Thamnum* Klotsch¹ the moss of that name must receive another. *Thamnobryum* may be suggested.

Thamnobryum Nom. Nov.

Thamnum Bryol. Eur. fasc. 49-51, Mon. (1852)² not Klotsch
l. c. *Euthamnum* Kindb., Hedw. XLI 209 (1902) in part.

¹ Klotsch, J. F., Linnea, XII, (1838), 223.

² Shimper, W. P. Royal Europ., Gen. Musc. Mon. Vol. I-VI, (1836-1855).